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Indiana Charter School Board Complete, Ready for Action



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With all seven members appointed to the Indiana Charter School Board (ICSB), an aggressive timeline has been set to expand the number of high quality charter schools throughout Indiana. Pending board approval, the goal will be to consider the first round of charter school applications in early 2012.

"The Indiana Charter School Board will serve as a model for the rest of our state as we expand the number of high quality public school options," Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett said. "There is high demand for quality school options. With more than 3,500 students on charter school waiting lists, our goal is to meet the needs of every child by providing options for all families."

Indiana Charter School Board Members

- ▶ Scott Jenkins, Indianapolis, by Gov. Mitch Daniels
- ▶ Bill Shrewsbury, Indianapolis, by Gov. Mitch Daniels
- ▶ Todd Huston, Fishers, by Superintendent Bennett
- ▶ Jamie Garwood, Fort Wayne, by Senate President Pro Tempore David Long
- ▶ Karega Rausch, Indianapolis, by House Speaker Brian Bosma
- ▶ Mark GiaQuinta, Fort Wayne, by House Minority Leader Patrick Bauer
- ▶ Larry DeMoss, Ellettsville, by Senate Minority Leader Vi Simpson

Claire Fiddian-Green, executive director of the ICSB, has been working since June to lay the framework for the board to hit the ground running. Letters of Intent have been made available online to several potential charter school operators that have expressed interest in opening a school in Indiana.

"While the ICSB has generated interest so far, we will be both careful and expedient in our work," said Fiddian-Green. "There is a tremendous opportunity to engage communities regarding the educational needs of their students. Before an application is approved, the public will have the opportunity to engage in the discussion."

Superintendent Bennett's original appointment to the board, Mr. Bob Koch, will be unable to serve on the Charter Board because of a previous commitment to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation; state law prohibits service in dual offices.

Instead, Todd Huston, former IDOE chief of staff, will serve as both Dr. Bennett's appointment to the ICSB and chairman of the board. Throughout his professional career, Todd Huston has been an active agent for improvement in education. Currently, he serves as a Strategic Business Development Manager for Cisco Systems, helping assist higher education and K-12 customers transform their operations and the student experience with technology. >From 2005 to 2009, Todd served as Gov. Daniel's appointment to the Indiana State Board of Education. Before serving on the State Board, Todd was a school board member for Hamilton Southeastern Schools, one of the largest and fastest growing districts in the state.

"Todd's leadership has been crucial to successfully implementing reforms that benefit Hoosier students," said Dr. Bennett. "His experience, vision and unwavering commitment to improving student achievement make him one of the greatest education leaders in our state. We are privileged to have him on this new board to increase quality options."

"I am excited to work with everyone as we look toward the agenda for the board's inaugural meeting," Huston stated. "At the end of the day, we have not fulfilled our obligations until Indiana's children receive the resources they deserve. I am committed to moving forward in a transparent manner that sets the stage for high quality schools to expand throughout Indiana."

The ICSB will have its inaugural meeting in September, 2011.

For more information on the Indiana Charter School Board, please visit the new website at www.in.gov/icsb.

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